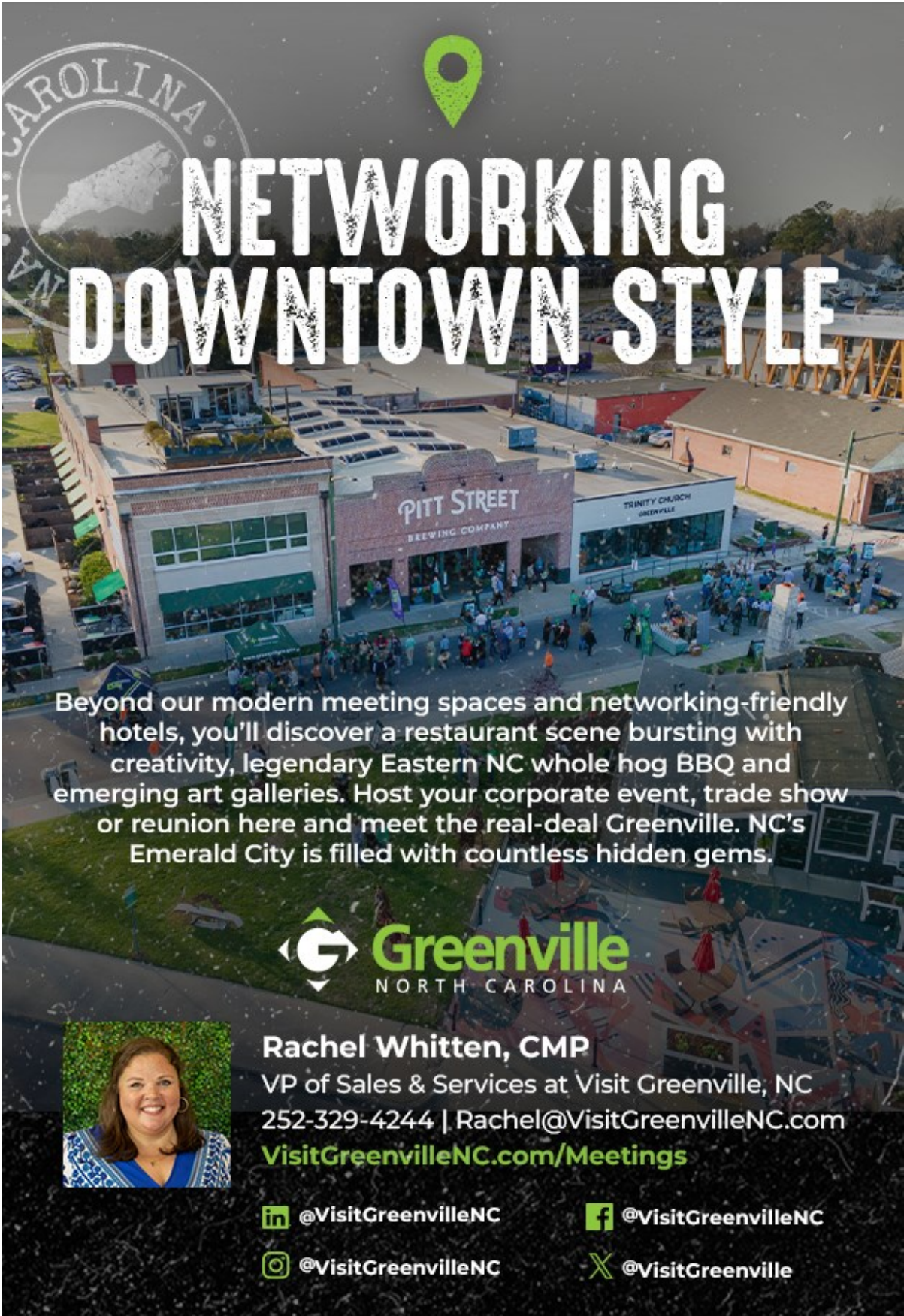


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How do you begin a new leadership position?

Coach Jim Johnson

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October 1, 2025

How do you begin a new leadership position?

Are you in a new leadership position?

As emerging leaders, it can be tough to enter into a new role. You have a new team, new responsibilities, and things can seem very overwhelming. How do you build new relationships? What are your expectations? Read below for some tips on how you can hit the ground running when you are put into a new leadership position.

- *Clarity. Who are you as a person? Who are you as a leader? You must define yourself first before anything else. Do you have a Personal Mission Statement? Write down your top three core values and read them every day.*
- *Three R's. Relationships, relationships, and relationships. Especially as a new leader, your team is waiting for you to connect with them. How do you get to know your people?*
- *Open. Are you open to your team, feedback, insights, and opinions? Your team will buy-in much faster if they feel heard. It is also your duty to be the CRO (Chief Reminding Officer).*
- *Systems. Do you have consistent systems in place for this new position? Do you need to tweak anything? How can you get procedures in place to build good habits and routines for your team?*
- *Communication. Clarity is kindness. How do you speak a common language with your team members? Understand that previous terminology might not apply in your new role.*
- *Team culture. How do you build the culture of your team? Simple. Build trust. Once you have trust, you have the foundation for a good culture.*
- *High expectations. Are you leading by example? Conduct yourself as if you are always on stage. Reinforce good actions and correct/advise poor actions that are not up to the team standards.*

Life Tip #43: Effective leaders are readers. What books are you reading that are helping you become a better leader?

About the Author:

Based on what transpired in a few short moments in early 2006, [Coach Jim Johnson](#) is now an authority on the subject of realizing your dreams. In his many public-speaking appearances, the Rochester, New York resident relates his role in a basketball game that got Hollywood calling. He also emphasizes the importance of teamwork and sportsmanship, delivering his talks with a heartfelt style that has brought audiences to their feet.

Coach Johnson has developed winning high-school basketball teams for 30 years, taking over three losing varsity programs and turning them into winners in short periods of time. Of his 428 career victories, one in particular will surely never be duplicated.

On Feb. 15, 2006, Coach Johnson made the kindhearted gesture of inserting his autistic manager, Jason McElwain, now known to the world as J-Mac into Greece Athena High School's final home game, which the Trojans won 79-43. J-Mac scored 20 points in just over four minutes, including six three-point baskets, to become an instant national celebrity. Coach Johnson, also, was featured in major news outlets around the country.

To make the Hollywood ending complete, Greece Athena captured the first Section V title of Coach Johnson's career a few weeks later.

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